

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 NSF-01 INT-05 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:NSF:LBBROWN
APPROVED BY OES/OFA:JDNEGROPONTE
COMM/NOAA - MR. WALLACE (SUB)
NSF - DR. SLAUGHTER (SUB)
OCEANAV - ADM. SNYDER (SUB)
CNR - ADM. GEIGER (SUB)
ARA/MEX - H. LANE

-----007177 240714Z /16

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, MX

SUBJECT:US/MEXICAN COOPERATION IN OCEAN SCIENCE RESEARCH

1. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT MEXICAN SCIENTISTS MAY BE INTERESTED IN UNDERTAKING COOPERATIVE MARINE SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND PACIFIC OCEAN. U.S. SCIENTISTS ARE PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN MANY STUDIES IN THIS SAME REGION; THEREFORE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF MEXICO AND THE U.S. TO DEVELOP COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL AND SCOPE OF MEXICAN INTEREST IN SUCH COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, AND, ASSUMING THEY ARE INTERESTED, TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MEANS FOR
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DEVELOPING SUCH PROJECTS. AS THE FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS, DEPT WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN A SMALL GROUP OF U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS. THE U.S. TEAM WOULD BE HEADED BY LOUIS B. BROWN OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, AND WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (STATE,

COMMERCE/NOAA, AND PERHAPS A THIRD) AND POSSIBLY ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AS WELL. DEPT HOPES THAT SCIENCE OR FISHERIES ATTACHE OR BOTH COULD ALSO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROPOSE SUBJECT MEETING TO GOM. DR. AUGUSTIN AYALA-CASTANARES MAY BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE POINT OF INITIAL CONTACT ON THIS MATTER, IN VIEW OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN REPRESENTING GOM IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCE MEETINGS. HE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER TO U.S. REP DAVID H. WALLACE DURING RECENT IOC ASSEMBLY. WE WOULD SUGGEST AN INITIAL INFORMAL MEETING OF ABOUT TWO DAYS DURATION IN MID OR LATE FEBRUARY.

4. THE PLACE OF THE MEETING CAN BE DECIDED LATER; HOWEVER, THE U.S. TEAM WOULD BE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO OR TO AN INTERMEDIATE LOCATION CONVENIENT TO THE MEXICANS.

5. FYI: VARIOUS MEXICAN SCIENTISTS AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DR. AYALA, HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED TO U.S. COUNTERPARTS THAT MEXICAN SCIENTISTS AND GOM WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING JOINT OCEAN PROGRAMS

WITH U.S. U.S. SCIENTISTS WOULD NORMALLY PREFER TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY WHEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH OFF COAST OF MEXICO. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING NEEDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEARANCES FOR SUCH RESEARCH HAVE CONVINCED U.S. SCIENTISTS AND FEDERAL FUNDING AGENCIES THAT INCREASING THE INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH MEXICAN SCIENTISTS AND THEIR GOM SPONSORS IN SUCH RESEARCH ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS MIGHT HAVE EFFECT OF FACILITATING THIS RESEARCH.

6. DEPT IS UNSURE, HOWEVER, WHETHER INDICATIONS OF INTEREST REPORTED ABOVE REFLECT SCATTERED INDIVIDUAL VIEWS OR A SERIOUS WIDESPREAD LEVEL OF INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE OCEAN SCIENCE PROJECTS. GOM RESPONSE TO PROPOSED MEETING WILL PROVIDE FIRST INDICATION OF THEIR INTEREST. IF THIS RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, OBJECTIVES OF INITIAL MEETING WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY TOPICS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF INTEREST AND THE DEPTH OF SUCH INTERESTS. THIS MEETING IS INTENDED TO BE EXPLORATORY ONLY, AND U.S. TEAM WILL NOT AT THIS TIME BE PREPARED TO COMMIT PROGRAMMATIC RESOURCES. HOWEVER, THE TEAM WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS FURTHER STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR SUCH COOPERATION. END FYI. VANCE

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